

A1 being functionally partitioned to provide scheduling, prioritization and multiplexing of ingress traffic to the broadband network independently of the adaptation layer (AAL) type of that traffic, and incorporating ingress and egress paths respectively to and from the broadband network, wherein said egress path provides on a through path segregation and delineation of incoming data units on to respective external data ports, and wherein said ingress path incorporates a common memory for payload storage whereby to perform multiplexing at both AAL and ATM layers.

3. (Amended) A common part sublayer ATM adaptation device as claimed in claim 2, and arranged to schedule a dispatch of cells or packets into an asynchronous network at a substantially constant rate.

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A2 5. (Amended) A common part sublayer ATM adaptation device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said segregation on to external data ports is determined from a combination of connection identifier, call state and packet type.

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A3 14. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said segregation on to external data ports is determined from a combination of connection identifier, call state and packet type.

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A4 16. (Amended) A communications network arrangement, comprising a narrow band network, a broadband network, and a common part sublayer (CPS) ATM adaptation device providing an interfacing function therebetween, wherein common part sublayer ATM adaptation device is functionally partitioned to provide scheduling,

prioritization and multiplexing of ingress traffic to the broadband network independently of the adaptation layer (AAL) type of that traffic, and incorporates ingress and egress paths respectively to and from the broadband network, wherein said egress path provides on a through path segregation and delineation of incoming data units on to respective external data ports, and wherein said ingress path incorporates a common memory for payload storage whereby to perform multiplexing at both AAL and ATM layers.

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17. (Amended) Software in machine readable form for operating a common part sublayer (CPS) ATM adaptation device, for interfacing between a narrow band network and a broad band network, said software being adapted to functionally partition the device so as to provide scheduling, prioritization and multiplexing of ingress traffic to the broadband network independently of the adaptation layer (AAL) type of that traffic to provide scheduling, prioritization and multiplexing of ingress traffic to the broadband network independently of the adaptation layer (AAL) type of that traffic, and incorporating ingress and egress paths respectively to and from the broadband network, wherein said egress path provides on a through path segregation and delineation of incoming data units on to respective external data ports, and wherein said ingress path incorporates a common memory for payload storage whereby to perform multiplexing at both AAL and ATM layers.

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